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Forty-seventh session
FOURTH COMMITTEE

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Note by the Chairman

1. The items on the agenda of the General Assembly allocated to the Fourth Committee for consideration and report are listed in document A/C.4/47/1. Background information on these items, including references to the related documentation, is set out in the annotated preliminary list of items on the provisional agenda of the forty-seventh session (A/47/100 and Add.1*). 1/

2. Under rule 99, paragraph (b), of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, each Main Committee "shall at the beginning of the session adopt a programme of work indicating, if possible, a target date for the conclusion of its work, the approximate dates of consideration of items and the number of meetings to be allocated to each item".

3. In pursuance of the above rule and taking into account its experience in previous years, the Fourth Committee may wish, for the purpose of planning, to consider adopting as a provisional guideline the approximate dates set out below for the consideration of the items on its agenda:

Agenda item	Number of meetings	Dates for consideration
Election of officers/ organization of work	1	6 October
Items 18, 98, 99, 100 and 12, 101 and 105	15-18	13-30 October

* A/47/100/Add.1 to be issued.

4. In the preparation of the above timetable, the Chairman was guided by the following considerations:

(a) In accordance with established procedures and bearing in mind the availability of the documentation, the Fourth Committee may wish to hold one general debate covering agenda items 18, 98, 99, 100 and 12, 101 and 105, it being understood that draft resolutions and/or proposals will be considered separately;

(b) It is understood that, should consideration by the General Assembly in plenary meetings of the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) [38] fall within the period indicated above, the timetable for the work of the Fourth Committee would be modified on the basis of consultations;

(c) In accordance with established procedure, the General Assembly is expected to take up in plenary meetings the question of the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples [18] as a whole following the completion of its consideration of the other decolonization items allocated to it and after the Fourth Committee has completed its work for the session;

(d) Petitioners will be heard as early as possible during the Fourth Committee's consideration of the related items. Bodies and individuals having an interest in the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) [38] will be heard in the Fourth Committee in conjunction with the consideration of the item in plenary meeting;

(e) The available conference facilities will enable the Fourth Committee to hold up to five meetings per week.

5. Subject to the above provisional programme of work being acceptable to the Fourth Committee and in order to facilitate the work of the Committee, the Chairman wishes to suggest that the list of speakers in the general debate covering its agenda items contained in document A/C.4/47/1 be closed on 13 October, at 6 p.m.

6. The Chairman wishes also to draw attention to the related decisions and practices of the General Assembly on the organization of its work as contained in document A/47/250 having particular relevance to the work of the Main Committees. Particular attention is drawn to a decision adopted by the Assembly that morning meetings should start at 10 a.m. promptly both for all plenary meetings and meetings of the Main Committees during the forty-seventh session (A/47/250, para. 8). Members' attention is also drawn to a decision adopted by the Assembly to waive at this session the quorum required, under rule 108 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, for the Chairman to declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed (see A/47/250, para. 9).

7. The attention of the members is also drawn to a recommendation of the General Committee (A/47/250, para. 5), adopted by the General Assembly at its 3rd plenary meeting, on 18 September 1992, that the holding of concurrent meetings of the Special Political Committee and the Fourth Committee should be avoided, to the extent possible and with the necessary flexibility, during the forty-seventh session.

8. According to the information made available to the Chairman by the competent offices of the Secretariat, the Fourth Committee, at the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly, lost more than 20 hours, the equivalent of some seven meetings, through the late starting and early adjournment of meetings. The Chairman accordingly wishes to appeal to members to cooperate with him with a view to the efficient utilization of conference resources during the session.

9. In order to allow the distribution of prepared texts of statements made in the Committee to delegations, specialized agencies, observers, interpreters and record-writers, 300 copies are required. A minimum of 15 copies should be given in advance of delivery of the speech, in order to help the Secretariat to provide the best possible service.

Notes

1/ For the final list of items adopted by the General Assembly, see document A/47/251 and Add.1.